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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Trip Report (Re: Tanker Support Agreements
for IDEALIST Project)**

1. Col. L. P. Geary, from AFCIG-5 Col. Powell, SAC Reconnaissance Operations, and [] IDEALIST, met in Col. Powell's office at approximately 1330 hours 14 Dec 61 to coordinate tanker support for Project IDEALIST. An agenda prepared by Project Headquarters was distributed to Col. Powell and Col. Geary. After a brief introduction identifying the general purpose of the discussion, the areas as outlined on the agenda were discussed. An understanding and agreement was reached on each item as indicated below.

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Reference Para 1. Agenda: Mutual agreement was reached that nine tanker sorties per year would be delivered by SAC for the purpose of maintaining crew proficiency. The tankers provided for this purpose can be employed by the project as desired to obtain the maximum possible training, including multiple receivers, wet and/or dry contacts, and multiple rendezvous separated by whatever number of hours desired within the capability limits of the KC-135 aircraft.

Plan B (one tanker/month for three months out of a four month period) was requested as the desired tanker delivery sequence. Col. Powell agreed that this was probably the best and gave his approval for the plan.

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Para 2.: Initially Col. Powell voiced a reluctance to accept the fact that ~~the~~ operational mission requirements could not be predicted in advance. After a short discussion and explanation of the actual methods of deciding and confirming specific requirements by Col. Geary and myself, Col. Powell conceded that under the circumstances tanker support for such purposes would have to be furnished without advance prior notice.

Para 3.: It was agreed that overseas operational tanker support would be furnished by the ARS Squadron at Castle AFB, utilizing one of the cleared crews and KC-135 on TDY basis. The KC-135 requirement and movement will be integrated into the staging team concept for such overseas requirements. A further advantage of being able to use the KC-135 to assist in transporting project personnel was mentioned briefly as a possibility.

Para 4.: Col. Powell concurred in our request for a total of five (5) KC-135 crews checked out and cleared for U-2 refuelings. He stated that he would have the Castle unit nominate four additional crews for screening and clearances. The question of using only Castle AFB tankers and crews was raised - with emphasis on the possibility of the unit being deployed or otherwise engaged in an unit activity which might preclude an aircraft and/or crew being available at any given time to support project requirements. Col. Powell assured us that this would not happen.

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[redacted] departure from Castle, and the need for a replacement aircraft commander on his view was brought up in the form of a question by the undersigned. Col. Powell wasn't certain on what was being done on this, but agreed that a replacement for [redacted] was preferable to clearing another entire crew.

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Para 5.: Col. Powell supported the bootleg idea enthusiastically with the stipulation of course that advance coordination and planning be accomplished. It was also agreed that bootleg dry hookups would not affect the number of scheduled tanker sorties delivered.

Para 6.: The procedures for coordination and confirmation of tanker sorties were generally agreed upon as follows:

a. Operational and special support to be requested through AFCIG-5. This includes original request, delays, and cancellations.

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b. Routine proficiency support: The schedule shown in Para 1 was established for 1962. In addition, NLT the 15th of the month preceding the month of tanker delivery a confirmation, including the desired day of the month for the refueling, will be furnished Col. Powell's office through AFCIG-5. WRSP-4 will also confirm this schedule with tanker unit prior to their monthly scheduling meeting.

The date for the next tanker support was agreed on for 24 January 1962.

c. Bootleg tanker support: The tanker unit will furnish WRSP-4 Squadron Commander a copy of each monthly schedule. On days when one of the cleared KC-135 crews are flying direct coordination between WRSP-4 and tanker unit is authorized to arrange bootleg dry hookups and rendezvous practice when convenient for both units.

It was agreed that the Tanker Squadron Commander should have an IDEALIST I clearance to facilitate coordination and scheduling.

Para 7.: Col. Powell will levy a requirement for the publication of a SAC Tactical Doctrine for KC-135/U-2 refuelings. A copy will be provided Project Headquarters upon publication.

2. The problem of transferring and handling Mil Spec 25524A fuel to the tanker was discussed. Col. Geary offered to provide Castle AFB with a rubber tank similar to the ones used by WRSP-4 if it was needed. An F-6 truck unit was considered to be very difficult to obtain and could not be justified. I stated that we would check into the matter and make a recommendation after consulting with Lt. Col. Gregory and Major Thornton.

3. One copy of the attached agenda was left with Col. Powell for his reference.


Lt. Colonel USAF
DPD/SPB/C/IDEA

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cc: AC/DPD
AFCIG-5

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